

Azzardla, formed of limestone and marl combined with the black schists and lumachello, which are inferior to them. Both contain *Avicula contorta* and a special fauna, which has already been partly described by the author in his 'Paléontologie Lombarde,' from which this memoir is an extract.

In the third part, the author shows that the palæontological study of the *Avicula-contorta* beds ranges them in the Jurassic series, and that they are of sufficient importance, and so clearly separated from the beds above and below them, to form a distinct stage, to which he gives the name of *étage infraliasien*. The synonyms of these beds in other countries are given by the author as follows:—the Kössen beds in Austria; the Bone-bed and the White Lias in England; the precursor of the Lias or Cloac of Würtemberg; the Sandstones of Helmsingen and Lövelange in Luxembourg; the Sandstones of Hettange; the zone of *Ammonites planorbis* and *A. angulatus* of Opper; the Limestone of Halberstadt; the Limestone of Valogne; the "*choin bâtard*" of Lyons; the "*foie de veau*" of Burgundy; part of the *Sinemurien* of D'Orbigny; the fourth stage of the Lias of D'Archiac; the Superior Dolomite of Lombardy, &c. The author gives a summary of all the classifications on this subject by means of a table, in which he assumes that the Infra-Liassic stage placed below the zone of *Ammonites Bucklandi* is composed as follows:—1, zone of *A. angulatus*; 2, zone of *A. planorbis*; 3, zone of *Terebratula gregaria*; 4, zone of *Bactryllium* resting on the Keuper.—*Bibl. Univ.* Jan. 20, 1862, *Bull. Sci.* p. 67.

CODIUM BURSA.

In most botanical works this plant is described as being "soft and sponge-like:" this only applies to its dry state. Miss Dyke Poore has kindly sent me two specimens growing together at the base. Instead of the plant being soft and sponge-like, it is hard and firm like a solid fruit, of a very dark olive-green colour; the surface is regularly granulated. The periphery of the globe is entirely formed of dark, transparent, clavate cells, the apices of which form the superficial granules, which are of a hemispherical shape. The appearance of the living plant is very unlike the velvety frond of the *Codium tomentosum*.—J. E. GRAY.

CAPTURE OF DIODON PENNATUM.

The Earl of Enniskillen, having observed a fine specimen of *Diodon pennatum* in the collection of Henry Norris, Esq., F.R.C.S., of Charmouth, and, on inquiry, finding that it was caught a short time ago on the coast near Charmouth, induced Mr. Norris to transmit the specimen to the Collection of British Animals in the British Museum. This is only the second time that the fish has been observed on the coast of Britain.—J. E. GRAY.